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May 17, 2017

Randy Fiorini
Chair, Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Fiorini:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC), I would like to share our organization's perspective on the ongoing effort by the Delta Stewardship Council to advance the co-equal goals of providing a reliable water supply for California and restoring the challenged ecosystem of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Los Angeles Business Council (LABC) and its over 450 members has been impacting the Los Angeles business landscape for over 70 years. The LABC provides its members with strong conduits to local, state and federal officials through targeted policy recommendations and key issue briefings, and annual summits. We strive to educate and advocate on sustainability, workforce housing, transportation, job creation and business development.

The Delta Plan, as drafted by the Stewardship Council, serves as the essential blueprint for numerous local, state and federal agencies to advance these goals through their representative jurisdictions. The Council is now in the process of amending this plan to expand its guidance for future improvements to Delta conveyance, water storage and reservoir operations.

Overall, we agree with the Council findings that the status quo in the Delta is unsustainable and unacceptable. Increasing risks from sea level rise, subsidence and earthquakes in the Delta threaten not only the water supply for 25 million Californians, but also the state's \$2 trillion economy that depends on reliable supplies of high quality water.

We agree that Delta water systems need to be modernized with new intakes in a manner that is compatible with Delta communities. We support the recommendation of building additional storage so that more supplies can be captured during wet periods.

To refine these broad objectives into appropriate final language, we encourage you to work closely with the stakeholders representing our communities who are most closely engaged in this vital process, including the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, its member agencies, local water agencies and the State Water Contractors.

California needs a reliable guide to safely secure a potable water supply and ensures that we do not negatively impact our natural environment in doing so. We need to update current mechanisms that are in place so that we can take advantage of heavy rainfalls and to incorporate the voices of everyone who will be affected by The Delta Plan. The LABC would like you to consider these issues before moving forward with the current iteration of the Plan.

Southern California will continue to reduce its reliance on the Delta to meet future needs through historic investments in conservation and new local supply development. Water from Northern California will remain an important baseline supply and must help to provide the reserves necessary to withstand droughts. A successful conclusion to your process is critical to advance a modernization of the Delta water system to advance both restoration and water reliability goals.

Thank you,



Mary Leslie
President, LABC